



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6204.0.55.001 - Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia, February 2009

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 14/04/2011

Summary

Main Features

This product, Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia (cat. no. 6204.0.55.001), contains superseded spreadsheets and data cubes that were previously published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

This additional information release relates to the inclusion of two additional spreadsheets (14A_Sep97 and 14B_Apr86) and one additional data cube (UM3_Sep97) to the historical product. These items contain historical Duration of unemployment estimates that were created based on an analysis of data collected as what is now known as Duration of unemployment since last full-time job. These estimates were previously published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) but they are no longer coherent with the newly revised unemployment estimates provided in other labour force products. Refer to the Changes this month: Historical Revisions article published in the February 2011 release of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for further information.

Previous issues of this product contain superseded spreadsheets and data cubes relating to the the introduction of new Industry, Occupation and Regional classifications. Labour Force Survey (LFS) time series data for the period 1966 to 1984 are also available. None of these historical products have been updated with recent revisions to benchmarks or industry classification.

The products are based on data published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), therefore, refer to that product's Explanatory Notes for detailed information.

Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia

This product, **Labour Force Historical Timeseries, Australia** (cat. no. 6204.0.55.001), contains superseded spreadsheets and data cubes from **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly** (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

The products have been superseded, in most instances, with the introduction of new Industry, Occupation and Regional classifications in February 2009 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0). The data cubes: E03_NOV84; E05_NOV84; E06_NOV84; and E12_NOV84, have been concorded to the new classifications; however, have been

superceded with equivalent more recent series on the ABS website (with data from August 1994).

Labour Force Survey (LFS) time series data for the period 1966 to 1984 is available in the previous edition of this publication and in **Labour Force, Australia, Historical Summary** (cat. no. 6204.0).

The products are based on data published in **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0), therefore, refer to that product's Explanatory Notes for detailed information.

About this Release

These spreadsheets and data cubes contain information on employed and unemployed persons and are classified to standards that have been superceded.

Occupation Classification

For the period August 1986 to May 1996 Occupation is classified to the Australian Classification of Occupations First Edition (FE).

Industry Classification

For the period August 1986 to July 1994 data was collected on 1983 Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) and reclassified to the 1993 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC 93).

For the period August 1994 to May 1996 data was collected on classified to the 1993 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC 93).

Region Classification

The LFS Statistical Regions between September 1992 and August 1997 are based on Volume 1 of Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 1996 Edition.

Duration of Unemployment Classification

For the period April 1986 to Mar 2001 Duration of unemployment is based on an analysis of Duration of unemployment since last full-time job Classification

Explanatory Notes

Quality Declaration

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household

survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage, which includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage, are published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 30,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.5% of the Australian Population. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate of about 97%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the

difference will be less than two standard errors.

The standard error of estimates and movements since the previous month may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

The following link provides assistance if experiencing problems opening or saving this data cube: [Managing SuperTABLE Data Cubes](#)

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

The following link provides assistance if experiencing problems opening or saving this data cube Managing SuperTABLE Data Cubes

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